

GUILT OF THE PRIVILEGED

BY LYNN MACKINLAY

A couple of months ago, DWA (Dalhousie Women's Alternative) invited a representative of the Hunger Project (H.P.) to present a one hour "briefing" on hunger.

Previous to the "briefing" I had heard a few negative references to the H.P.'s integrity, and so that afternoon, I took the opportunity to ask some questions about it. At OXFAM-Canada, I was able to find a file on the H.P.

The file was a collection of various statements calling into question, the validity of the H.P., and several H.P. publications.

Included in criticisms of the H.P. was an official OXFAM-Canada letter that stated the OXFAM would not accept funds from the H.P. or allow its name to be used in H.P. literature. UNICEF-Canada chose the same route after H.P. published a paper "Cambodia one year later: A success

H.P. takes advantage of people's sense of impotence at not being able to change the situation . . .

story" which used the UNICEF-Canada logo, to give it credibility.

A group who actively opposes the work of H.P. is the Kamploops Inter-Church Committee for World Development. This christian development and peace group states unequivocally that "the EST organisation (H.P.'s central body) must be questioned, challenged and held accountable at every turn."

Any doubts that were raised in my mind through the reading I had done, were reinforced by the hunger briefing, given at the DWA meeting.

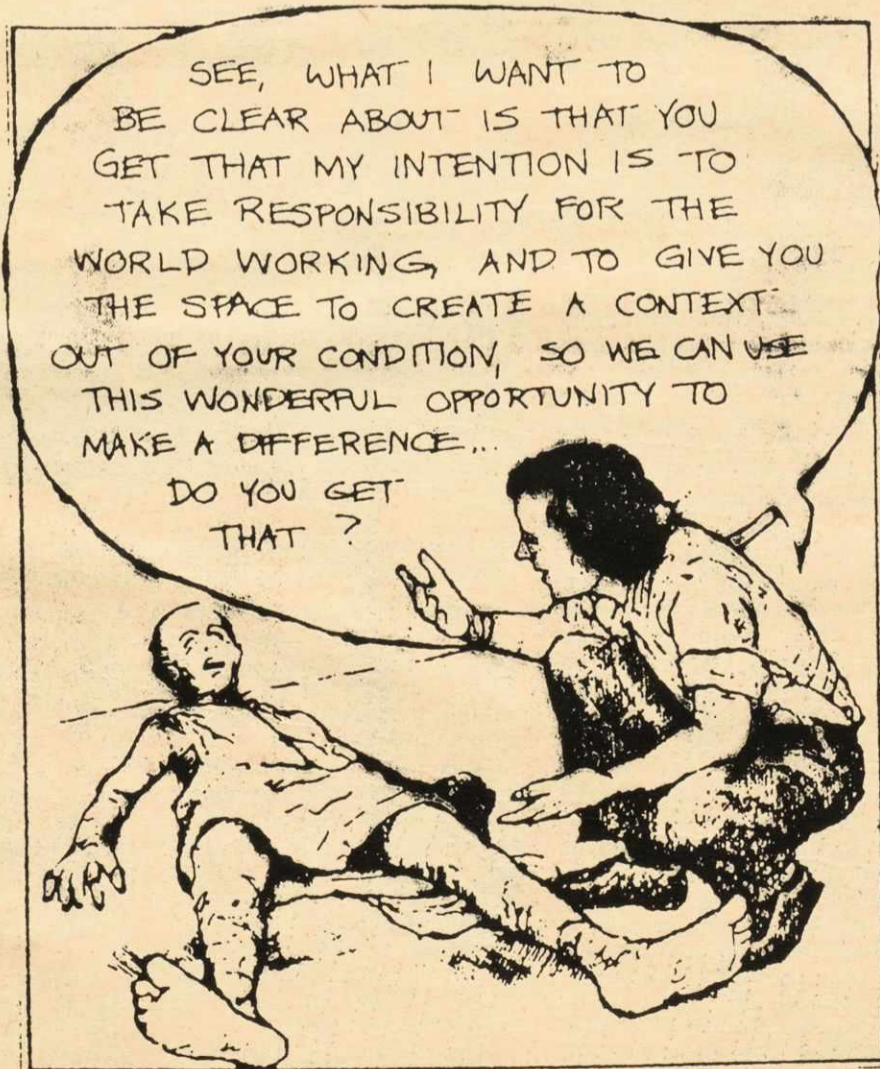
I attended this meeting resolved to objectively consider the H.P.'s position.

What was presented to us was a carefully orchestrated introduction to the hunger project and slide presentation that was created to seduce the listener and observer into feeling a sense of "workability" (sic) which changed the "context" (sic) of our world.

I found this an insult to my intelligence, as the wording and reasoning seemed to be geared at an elementary school level. The H.P. representative expressed to us that if we had a new attitude towards world hunger (the H.P. attitude) it would be a positive alternative to our, presumed, previously felt sins of helplessness. The H.P. requirement of enrolling in its organisation is to commit a sense of personal responsibility. It was just a bit too much to grasp.

H.P. takes advantage of people's sense of impotence at not being able to change the situation, by saying: "If you change your state of mind, the problems will change."

Information on HUNGER-PROJECT is available at Patchwork, 1247 Seymour St., for those interested in looking further into the issue. Call 424-2526 or call the H.P. people and come to your own conclusions.



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